

Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 142400

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 142400 ACTION ADDIS ABABA 17 JUNE.

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR SO US

SUBJECT: BRIEFING FOR POSSIBLE VISIT TO BERBERA FACILITIES

1. A BUILD-UP OF SOVIET PRESENCE IN THE BERBERA AREA IS INDICATED BY THE FOLLOWING FACILITIES: SOVIET MOORING FACILITIES IN THE PORT OF BERBERA, A NEW MISSILE HANDLING AND STORAGE AREA SUITABLE FOR SERVICING SOVIET NAVAL CRUISE MISSILES AND OTHER SOVIET TACTICAL MISSILES, A LARGE NEW AIRFIELD UNDER CONSTRUCTION WHICH WILL BE SUITABLE FOR HANDLING LARGE BOMBER AIRCRAFT, THE ADDITION OF NINE NEW STORAGE TANKS, MORE THAN DOUBLING THE CAPACITY OF THE BERBERA PETROLEUM, OIL, OR LUBRICANTS (POL) STORAGE FACILITY, A SEPARATE FENCED SOVIET BARRACKS AND HOUSING AREA ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF BERBERA WHICH CONTAINS 15 BARRACKS AND 17 HOUSE TRAILERS, AND TWO HIGH FREQUENCY COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES OUTSIDE OF TOWN, ONE A TRANSMITTER STATION, THE UNCLASSIFIED

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OTHER A RECEIVING STATION, BOTH SUITABLE FOR SOVIET LONG-RANGE COMMUNICATIONS.

2. SOVIET PRESENCE IS OBVIOUS AT THE SOVIET MOORING

FACILITIES IN THE HARBOR AND AT THE SOVIET BARRACKS AND HOUSING AREA. EXCLUSIVE SOVIET OCCUPANCY IS SUSPECTED AT SEVERAL OF THE OTHER FACILITIES.

3. THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HAS RELEASED SOME RECONNAISSANCE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE BERBERA AREA SHOWING THESE FACILITIES. THE PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN BY A HIGH ALTITUDE RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT FLYING OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS. THIS PHOTOGRAPHY WAS USED TO PREPARE THE FOLLOWING GUIDE TO FACILITIES OF INTEREST IN THE BERBERA AREA.

4. THE TOWN OF BERBERA IS NOT LARGE. THE FOLLOWING AREAS SHOULD BE EASY TO FIND. FIRST AND MOST OBVIOUS ARE THE AREAS IN THE PORT. THE SOVIET MOORING AREA IS AT A LARGE MOLE WHICH IS THE WESTERN-MOST PORTION OF THE BERBERA HARBOR FACILITIES.

5. THE PORT FACILITIES ARE PROTECTED BY A NATURAL BREAKWATER AND INCLUDE A MOLE AND A THREE-SECTION FINGER PIER. A LARGE STORAGE/SUPPORT BUILDING DOMINATES THE MOLE. ASK TO BE TAKEN TO THE PORT AUTHORITY (ADMINISTRATION) BUILDING ON THE MAIN QUAY. A SOVIET BARRACKS SHIP IS PROBABLY MOORED ON NORTHEAST PORTION OF QUAY ALONG SIDE SMALL PIER. OTHER SOVIET SHIPS IN PORT WILL BE MEDITERRANEAN-MOORED (STERN TO THE QUAY) IN THIS AREA. A SECOND AREA IN THE PORT CAN BE REACHED BY LEAVING THE PORT AUTHORITY BUILDING AND TAKING THE EASTERN CAUSEWAY FROM THE QUAY TO THE SHORELINE. THIS IS THE SOMALI NAVAL AREA. THE POSSIBILITY OF THE PRESENCE OF NAVAL CRUISE MISSILES, WHICH ARE SHIPPED IN LARGE CRATES OR CYLINDRICAL CANNISTERS, IS SUGGESTED BY THE MISSILE STORAGE AND HANDLING FACILITY WHICH WILL BE DESCRIBED LATER. HOWEVER, THE SOMALI NAVY IS NOT KNOWN TO HAVE SHIPS WHICH NORMALLY CARRY CRUISE MISSILES.

6. LEAVING THE PORT FACILITIES, PROCEED TO SHAAB SQUARE, JUST INLAND (SOUTH) OF THE SOMALI NAVAL AREA. PROCEED UNCLASSIFIED

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WEST SOUTH-WEST APPROXIMATELY 2KM ON ROAD TO THE PETROLEUM STORAGE FACILITY AND CONSTRUCTION SUPPORT AREA WHICH IS JUST OFF THE NORTH END OF THE N/S SAND RUNWAY OF BERBERA AIRFIELD. SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY DIFFICULTY LOCATING SHAAB SQUARE, SIMPLY GO TO BERBERA AIRFIELD ON WEST SIDE OF TOWN AND USE N/S RUNWAY AS REFERENCE. THE POL STORAGE FACILITY CONSISTS OF SIX CYLINDRICAL POL STORAGE TANKS OF VARIOUS SIZES. TWO SMALL HORIZONTAL TANKS, AND SIX SMALL SUPPORT BUILDINGS. A PIPELINE CONNECTS THESE STORAGE TANKS TO TWO MOORING BUOYS IN THE HARBOR. NINE NEW POL STORAGE TANKS (FIVE LARGE AND FOUR SMALL) IN THE FINAL STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION ARE BEING INTERCONNECTED BY A MULTIPLE PIPELINE. TWO SUPPORT BUILDINGS ARE ALSO UNDER

CONSTRUCTION.

7. TO REACH THE MISSILE HANDLING AND STORAGE FACILITY CONTINUE SOUTHWEST FROM THE POL FACILITY FOR APPROXIMATELY 4KM ON NATURAL-SURFACE ROAD. THE MISSILE HANDLING AND STORAGE FACILITY IS A FENCE-SECURED INSTALLATION WITH TWO BUILDINGS AT ITS ENTRANCE GATE. IT STANDS BY ITSELF IN THE SAND, ROCK, AND SHRUB DESERT SOUTHWEST OF BERBERA. THE FACILITY CONTAINS THREE SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENTLY FENCED AREAS INSIDE THE MAIN PERIMETER FENCE WHICH SURROUNDS THE ENTIRE FACILITY. EACH OF THESE SEPARATELY FENCED AREAS CONTAINS FACILITIES UNIQUELY SUITED FOR MISSILE HANDLING AND STORAGE. THEY ARE: A CHECKOUT ASSEMBLY AND STORAGE AREA, A MISSILE HANDLING AND FUELING AREA, AND A COMPONENTS STORAGE AREA.

8. THE CHECKOUT/ASSEMBLY AND STORAGE AREA, TO THE RIGHT OF THE ROAD FROM THE ENTRANCE GATE, CONTAINS A HIGH-BAY BUILDING, TWO LARGE BUNKERS, A CONCRETE PAD, AND TWO SUPPORT BUILDINGS. TYPICALLY MISSILES MAY BE SHIPPED IN CANNISTERS AND CRATES, WHICH ARE SOMETIMES OPENED ON A CONCRETE PAD. THE MISSILE COMPONENTS MAY BE ASSEMBLED IN A HIGH BAY BUILDING, USUALLY A DRIVE IN BUILDING WITH A HIGH BAY FOR AN OVERHEAD CRANE. ASSEMBLED MISSILES, MINUS FUEL AND WARHEADS MAY BE STORED IN BUNKERS SUCH AS THOSE FOUND JUST BEYOND THE CONCRETE PAD.

9. A LONG TWO-STORY ADMINISTRATIVE STORAGE OR SUPPORT
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BUILDING IS LOCATED JUST OUTSIDE THE CHECKOUT/ASSEMBLY AND STORAGE AREA.

10. EXPLOSIVE COMPONENTS SUCH AS WARHEADS AND FUSES ARE KEPT SEPARATE FROM THE MISSILES UNTIL THE FINAL ASSEMBLY. IN THE BERBERA FACILITY THE EXPLOSIVES COMPONENT STORAGE AREA, AT THE END OF THE ROAD FROM THE ENTRANCE GATE, CONTAINS THREE SMALL BUNKERS, A SMALL DRIVE-THROUGH BUNKER, A BUILDING, A SMALL SHED, AND AN EXCAVATION FOR A STORAGE TANK. THESE BUNKERS ARE FOR EXPLOSIVE COMPONENTS STORAGE. THE STORAGE TANK MAY BE FOR WATER IN CASE OF FIRE.

11. MISSILE FUELING FACILITIES ARE ALSO KEPT SEPARATE, BOTH FROM THE CHECKOUT/ASSEMBLY AND STORAGE AREA AND, NATURALLY, FROM THE EXPLOSIVE COMPONENTS STORAGE AREA.

12. IN THE BERBERA FACILITY THE MISSILE-HANDLING AND FUELING AREA, TO THE LEFT OF THE ROAD FROM THE ENTRANCE GATE, CONTAINS EIGHT SHEDS (TWO SEPARATELY SECURED) AND AN EXCAVATION FOR A STORAGE TANK. NOTE THAT TWO OF THE SHEDS ARE SUITABLE FOR DRIVING MISSILES ON TRANSPORTERS THROUGH THE BUILDINGS FOR FINAL CHECKOUT.

SHOP SECTIONS ARE ON THE SIDES OF THESE SHEDS. THE PRECISE LOCATION WHERE SMALL MISSILE FUELING TANKS WILL BE FOUND IN THIS PORTION OF THE FACILITY HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED. THE LARGE STORAGE TANK UNDER CONSTRUCTION WILL AGAIN PROBABLY BE FOR FIRE CONTROL.

13. NOTE ALSO THE CAREFUL GRADING OF THE ROADS IN THE MISSILE HANDLING AND STORAGE FACILITY, A FEATURE TYPICAL OF AREAS WHERE MISSILES ARE SERVICED.

14. TO FIND THE NEW AIRFIELD UNDER CONSTRUCTION LEAVE THE MISSILE HANDLING AND STORAGE FACILITY AND PROCEED SOUTHWEST APPROXIMATELY 4KM BY NATURAL-SURFACE ROAD UNTIL REACHING A QUARRY. TURN NORTHWEST 2KM AND THE AIRFIELD CONSTRUCTION SITE WILL BE REACHED. THIS IS THE ONLY ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY IN THE DESERT SOUTHWEST OF BERBERA AXTER YOU LEAVE THE MISSILE HANDLING AND STORAGE FACILITY.

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15. THE NEW AIRFIELD UNDER CONSTRUCTION--CONSTRUCTION CONSISTS OF A CLEARED AREA FOR A NE/SW RUNWAY, ON WHICH INITIAL SURFACING IS IN PROCESS. THE DISTANCE FROM THE POINT AT WHICH SURFACING HAD BEGUN TO THE END OF THE CLEARED AREA IS APPROXIMATELY 13,500 FEET, WHICH WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO ACCOMMODATE LARGE BOMBER AIRCRAFT. A SECOND CLEARED AREA PARALLELS THE RUNWAY.

16. TO FIND THE SOVIET BARRACKS AREA, RETURN TO TOWN AND GET ON THE SURFACED ROAD HEADING SOUTH TO HARGEISA. THE BARRACKS AREA, INCLUDING AN ADJACENT COMPOUND WITH HOUSING TRAILERS, WILL BE ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE ROAD ON THE SOUTHERN EDGE OF BERBERA. THE FENCE-SECURED BARRACKS AREA CONSISTS OF A PROBABLE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 15 BARRACKS, TWO SUPPORT BUILDINGS, AND AN OUTDOOR THEATRE. THE TRAILER PARK INCLUDES 17 HOUSE TRAILERS AND THREE POSSIBLE GENERAL SUPPORT TRAILERS.

17. TO FIND THE HIGH FREQUENCY RECEIVER SITE GO TO THE SOMALI COMMO STATION 1KM SOUTH OF THE BARRACKS, TAKE A LEFT TURN ONTO A NATURAL SURFACE ROAD AND PROCEED 4KM TO A FENCE-SECURED INSTALLATION ON THE LEFT WHICH IS THE HIGH-FREQUENCY COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVER SITE. NUMEROUS MASTS WILL BE EVIDENT. SIX QUONSET-TYPE BUILDINGS WILL BE JUST INSIDE THE MAIN GATE. GUARD TOWERS ARE AT ALL FOUR CORNERS OF THE FACILITY.

18. TO LOCATE THE OTHER COMMUNICATIONS SITE, RETURN TO TOWN. TO REACH THE HIGH-FREQUENCY COMMUNICATIONS TRANSMITTER SITE, ONE MUST TRAVEL 5KM EAST OF BERBERA OVER A POOR NATURAL SURFACE ROAD ONLY A LITTLE BETTER THAN A

TRAIL. A LARGE CULTIVATED AREA WILL BE TO THE LE?8
YOU PROCEED EAST. THE TRANSMITTER SITE WILL HAVE A
SIMILAR APPEARANCE TO THE RECEIVER SITE. THE INSTALLA-
TION IS FENCE SECURED WITH GUARD TOWERS AT EACH
CORNER. NUMEROUS MASTS WILL BE PRESENT WITH TWO SMALL
STRUCTURES IN THE CENTER OF THE FACILITY. KISSINGER

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